

BOXES, OLD CHRISTMAS FAD

Ancient Custom at One Time Developed into Demand as Right and Became Nuisance.

THE best of Christmas boxes is of great antiquity, and was formerly the property of well-to-do persons who were willing to contribute something toward the indigent. Later the gift came to be demanded as a right and became somewhat of a nuisance. Long ago the Roman Catholic priests had masses for everything, and if a ship went to the West Indies they had a box in her under the protection of some patron saint, into which the sailors put money or other valuables in order to secure the prayers of the church. At Christmas these boxes were opened and were then called Christmas boxes. In England the day after Christmas is known as "Boxing day," from the Christmas boxes which used to be in circulation, and in the British museum can be seen boxes covered with green glass with a slit in the side for money and presents.

CHRISTMAS BAG FOR GUESTS

Container for Presents Attached to Backs of Chairs With Bow of Red Satin Ribbon.

THE Christmas bag is an innovation planned by one housekeeper. The breakfast table is to be decorated with a mirror in the center, outlined as a star by holly sprigs, and with a slender cut glass vase in the center holding red chrysanthemums. Long-stemmed flowers also radiate from the central star with the blossoms toward the plates of those for whom the flowers are intended. Every napkin lies beneath a Christmas card with a sprig of holly tied upon it with red ribbon, and to the back of every chair is tied a bag with a big red satin bow. The bags are of all sizes, and each is full of individual gifts. One is an opera bag, another a shopping bag in black and gold, still another is brown leather and gold nailheads, another a bag for collars and cuffs, another a gas hound bag, one is suggestive of the scraps grandmother will put into it, and the other of books that a small girl will carry to school. All are as dainty and fine as careful workmanship and good materials can make them, and there will be ten emptying the materials out of the various bags.

Differ on Christ's Birthday

THE early Christmas was divided as to the date on which the nativity of Christ should be celebrated. Some of these celebrated it on the first or sixth of January, other groups observed September 29 and still another March 29. As early as the fourth century, however, the period of the new year had been generally accepted as the time for celebrating Christ's birth. The Western branch of the church observed December 25 and the Eastern church January 6. Finally it was decided that all should celebrate December 25. Pope Julius I, who presided in the first half of the fourth century, is credited with having set the date.

Roses at Christmas.

The fact that we can get flowers out of doors at Christmas time is in itself a sufficient justification for growing the Christmas rose, but besides that it is worth growing for itself, says Country Life in America. Its large white flowers, fully two inches across, resembling those of a giant single rose, although as a matter of fact it belongs to the same family as the butternut, never fail to excite enthusiasm in the season of snow and ice. The plant itself grows only six to eight inches high, and the large, greenish-white flowers are borne in clusters and nestle closely among the dark green leaves.

Novel Christmas Salad Bowl.

By the time that the salad course arrives at the Christmas dinner all that surround the festive board are apt to be warm. It will be refreshing to see the salad come to the table in a block of ice. Smooth the ice square with a hot flat iron and make a cavity in the center with the same utensil. Border with crisp lettuce and sprigs of holly and fill with salad. Place the block on several thicknesses of cloth or a deep platter and put around it a wreath of holly.

DO IT EARLY

Buy — Doing your Christmas shopping now? Why it's a long time off. Mrs. Small — I know, but the store is half a block away.

An Easy Gift.

Small boy, running up and displaying a stick — "Just look, uncle, what I've done with my example! Got a whole million! I'll give it to you as a Christmas present!" — Elsie B. Ritter.

Would Be Missed

One day while out in the yard playing with his new knife a little boy broke the blade and came in looking badly about it. I told him I was sorry, too. He thought about it a little while, then he said: "My, but my pocket will be lonesome without my knife." — Exchange.

Really Not Worth It.

There is one way to keep people from talking about you. It is to say nothing, do nothing and be nothing. But it certainly isn't worth while.

Items of County News

News of our neighboring villages as gleaned each week by our staff of special correspondents

ITHACA

The funeral of Mrs. J. D. Maloney was held Monday in Ithaca at the Presbyterian church, Rev. William Roberts officiating. Mrs. Maloney leaves two sons, Ray and Arthur, and a daughter, Helen, all of whom were in attendance at the funeral. Interment was made in the Ithaca cemetery.

A. L. Devereaux was in Elsie and St. Louis on business Monday.

The Misses Rachel and Edna Gray left Wednesday to spend the remainder of the winter with relatives near Detroit.

Automobile licenses may be obtained in Ithaca at the office of Erva R. Laycock, drain commissioner of Gratiot county. Holland Rose of Lansing was in town Friday making the necessary arrangements with Mr. Laycock.

Mrs. Fred Brown entertained the pupils of the seventh and eighth grades with Christmas reading a day the past week.

Mrs. Adda Clark has gone to Detroit for an indefinite stay with her sister.

The Crescent Rebekah lodge held their annual fair and baked goods sale Saturday, December 11, in the Gibbs Peabody and Hubbard land office.

The Christmas seal sale for the village of Ithaca is in charge of Rev. William Roberts, pastor of the Presbyterian church, of this place. Rev. Roberts has appointed Miss Harriet Hodges in charge of school children; Miss Genevieve Hodges and Mrs. Louis Grettenberger of the business section and Mrs. E. H. Foote of the residence section. They expect to sell at least 10,000 seals in Ithaca. Miss Sara Brodebeck is in charge in the rural districts in the county and she has appointed a person from each township to have charge of the sale of seals.

At chapel exercises Wednesday morning at the high school Rev. William Roberts talked to the young people about the secret of victory in life.

The Pollyanna class of the Methodist Sunday school enjoyed a Christmas party at the church after school Thursday evening. Each member had the privilege of inviting a friend and after a pot luck supper scrap books were made and Christmas gifts distributed. Miss Irene Sackett is teacher of this class.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester Knight of Alma were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Willert Sunday.

Frank Crane and son, Stanley, were in Mt. Pleasant Friday and Saturday.

Classmates of Ernestine Crittenden met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Blizard Thursday evening for a pot luck supper with her on the eve of her departure for Chicago where she is to make her home.

Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Convis, Victor Sawyer, Miss Harriet Hodges and Miss Nettie Roberts were in attendance at a meeting of the Epworth League in St. Louis Sunday evening.

Dayton Powers and family of Alma were recent guests of Frank Powers.

Wednesday evening at the Methodist church boys of the high school entertained the men of the town. A luncheon was served and before adjournment to the auditorium Nile Jessup entertained the company with a number of slight of hand tricks and Mr. Pratt of Alma college gave a monologue. Lewis Grettenberger, superintendent of Ithaca high school, called to order and orchestra music opened the program. Boys who attended the Y. M. C. A. banquet at Grand Rapids were called upon for reports. This was followed by brief talks of a number of business men. Mr. Platt then gave a talk on his regeneration from the slums of Detroit to preparatory work in the mission field. After the program the boys challenged the men to a basketball game at the armory. The game was won by the boys. The score being 6 and 9. The men's team was composed of Laverne Chapin, Lewis Grettenberger, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Finlayson and L. L. Dewey.

Ruth McCall and Howard Crawford were in Merrill Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Coleman left the first of the week to spend some months in Florida.

Robert Sawyer of Detroit came Thursday to spend until after the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Sawyer.

The members of the Women's Foreign Missionary society of the Methodist church entertained their husbands also the Standard Bearers, the Philanthropic Sunday school class and the extension and honorary members of their society at a banquet at the Methodist church Friday evening. The company numbered about 125 and the banquet was served by four boys. Victor Sawyer, Raymond Harvey, L. J. Keeler and Rodney Lake. After the banquet a program was given consisting of music, a talk by the president of the society, Mrs. J. E. Gardner, and president of the Standard Bearers and Supervisor of the Kings Herald, Miss Edna Thomas told of the work of these organizations. Mrs. M. G. Shomer, second vice-president of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of Lansing district gave a very interesting talk followed by a talk by Rev. L. L. Dewey. Mrs. Fred Brown gave a reading and a "Missionary Clinic," a playette was given

by the Standard Bearers. An offering was taken. This goes to pay the passage of outgoing missionaries.

BRECKENRIDGE

George Huntoon and family motored to St. Louis Sunday to spend the day with his parents. In returning home Sunday evening Mr. Huntoon had the misfortune to slip into the ditch with his new Dodge car. The car turned over on its side and the occupants were quite badly jolted but no one seriously injured. Only one member of the family had to be given care during the night.

Edwin Joslin of Elm Hall spent the week end at the home of J. P. Sexton and family.

Millard Hopkins and wife of Riverdale were week end guests of her mother, Mrs. Agnes Crawford.

The Congregational choir under the direction of Miss L. T. Knorrp, the leader, is rehearsing a Christmas cantata, "The First Christmas," to be given Sunday evening, December 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shafer are visiting their daughter, Mrs. Al. Emery.

Mr. Elwin Joslin and Miss Emma Sexton, Newton Joslin and wife of Clarks Lake, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Mr. and Mrs. Millard Hopkins spent Sunday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hackett of Wheeler.

Newton Joslin and bride of Clarks Lake, who have been visiting relatives in Breckenridge and Wheeler returned home Monday morning.

Fay E. Anderson, who is employed in Flint, spent the week end with his parents here.

Miss Linda Knorrp, Miss Ethel Sabin, Mrs. Agnes Crawford and Alfred Sexton motored out to the Emerson Presbyterian church Friday evening where they enjoyed a delicious chicken pie supper and church fair. The ladies of the Emerson church certainly know how to do things and the crowd expressed themselves as very desirous of going again in the near future.

A meeting of the school board and faculty of the Breckenridge high school was called Saturday night and after many able speeches on both sides it seems a better understanding of the methods to be used has been reached and now it is hoped that things will move more smoothly again.

LEGAL NOTICES

MORTGAGE SALE

WHEREAS, default has been made in the payment of the money secured by a mortgage dated the second day of March, in the year 1911, executed by Joshua L. Miller and Frances Miller, his wife, of the city of Alma, county of Gratiot, State of Michigan, to and for the use of the same place, which said mortgage was recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of the county of Gratiot in Liber 134 of mortgages on page 421, on the 14th day of April in the year 1911 at eleven o'clock A. M. And whereas, the amount claimed to be due upon said mortgage at the date of this notice is the sum of fifty-three hundred forty-two and ninety-one hundredths dollars (\$5342.91) of principal and interest and the further cost of this foreclosure, and which is the whole amount claimed to be unpaid on said mortgage, and no suit or proceeding having been instituted at law to recover the debt now remaining secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof, whereby the power of sale contained in the said mortgage has become operative.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given, that by virtue of the said power of sale, and in pursuance of the statute in such behalf made and provided, the said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises therein described, at public auction to the highest bidder at the front door of the court house at Ithaca, Michigan, on the 21st day of January, 1921, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day, which said premises are described in said mortgage as follows, to-wit: The north-east quarter of section sixteen (16); and the south fifty (50) acres of the north-east quarter of section sixteen (16); and the north-east quarter of section seventeen (17); and the south fifty (50) acres of the north-east quarter of section seventeen (17); and the north-east quarter of section sixteen (16); and the south fifty (50) acres of the north-east quarter of section sixteen (16); and the north-east quarter of section seventeen (17); and the south fifty (50) acres of the north-east quarter of section seventeen (17); 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